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On September 27, 2006

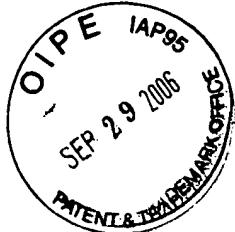
TOWNSEND and TOWNSEND and CREW LLP

By: M. T. Davis
Mark T. Davis

PATENT
Attorney Docket No.: 080644-000000US
Client Reference No.: 13745/5/St

IFG

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



In re application of:

Horst GUGGEMOS

Application No.: 10/590,123

Filed: August 18, 2006

For: ANNULAR RING ELEMENT

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

Art Unit: Not Yet Assigned

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT UNDER 37 CFR §1.97 and
§1.98**

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

The references cited on attached form PTO/SB/08A are being called to the attention of the Examiner. Copies of the references [in compliance with the requirements of 37 CFR §1.98(a)(2)] are enclosed. Also enclosed is a copy of the Search/Examination Report from the corresponding Austrian application. It is respectfully requested that the cited references be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and the references be made of record therein and appear among the "references cited" on any patent to issue therefrom.

As provided for by 37 CFR §1.97(g) and (h), no inference should be made that the information and references cited are prior art merely because they are in this statement and no

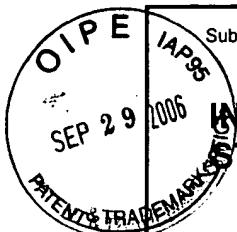
representation is being made that a search has been conducted or that this statement encompasses all the possible relevant information.

Applicant believes that no fee is required for submission of this statement. However, if a fee is required, the Commissioner is authorized to deduct such fee from the undersigned's Deposit Account No. 20-1430. Please deduct any additional fees from, or credit any overpayment to, the above-noted Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,


J. Georg Seka
Reg. No. 24,491

TOWNSEND and TOWNSEND and CREW LLP
Two Embarcadero Center, Eighth Floor
San Francisco, California 94111-3834
Tel: 415-576-0200
Fax: 415-576-0300
JGS:mtd
60876744 v1



Substitute for form 1449A&B/PTO				<i>Complete if Known</i>	
				<i>Application Number</i>	10/590,123
				<i>Filing Date</i>	August 18, 2006
				<i>First Named Inventor</i>	GUGGEMOS, Horst
				<i>Art Unit</i>	Not Yet Assigned
				<i>Examiner Name</i>	Not Yet Assigned
Sheet	1	of	1	<i>Attorney Docket Number</i>	080644-000000US

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Document Number Number Kind Code ² (<i>if known</i>)	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
	AA	US-4,089,139	05-16-1978	Moffa et al.	
	AB	US-2003/146527 A1	08-07-2003	Powers et al.	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS								
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document			Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁶
		Country Code ³	Number ⁴	Kind Code ⁵ (<i>if known</i>)				
	AC	DE	19818709	A1	10-28-1999		English Abstract Attached	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	AD	JP	11-323980	A	11-26-1999		English Abstract Attached	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	AE	GB	2248866	A	04-22-1992			<input type="checkbox"/>

Examiner Signature	Date Considered
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¹EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

²Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ³Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.